

**STORMWATER TASK FORCE  
MINUTES  
January 13, 2016**

The Stormwater Task Force met in the Lunenburg Town Hall, Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room, as scheduled, with Matt Allison, Jim Auge, Phyllis Luck, Dave MacDonald, Jack Rabbitt, and Jack Rodriquez present. The meeting opened at 7:00 P.M.

Phyllis Luck opened the meeting and announced that Sarah Cammer submitted a talent bank form to serve on the task force. She is and Educator Scientist, currently teaching Environmental Science at Worcester Tech. She has a PhD in Marine Science, an MS in geoscience, a BA in geology; is GIS capable; MACC fundamentals certified; has grant writing experience; and is a former environmental consultant (hydrology, groundwater monitoring, compliance, Tr-55 and Phase II work. Her application will be considered by the Board of Selectmen at their 1/19/16 meeting.

Officers were then chosen. Matt Allison nominated Phyllis Luck for Task Force Chair, Jack Rabbitt seconded; all voted in favor.

Jack Rabbitt nominated Dave MacDonald, for Task Force Vice Chair. Matt Allison seconded, all voted in favor.

There were no nominations for Clerk; it was suggested that position be filled when there is a full board; Phyllis Luck volunteered to be responsible for the minutes of this meeting.

Phyllis Luck introduced Fred Civian, MA DEP Stormwater Coordinator, who gave an informative presentation on the new MS-4 requirements due to be announced by the EPA in February. While Fred was setting up, Dave MacDonald suggested that Phyllis read the Task Force Mission Statement, which she did.

During the presentation, Mr. Civian showed an EPA generated map of Lunenburg. It denoted the areas of town considered urbanized and within the requirements of the MS4 permit. This permit will compel towns to adopt bylaws to regulate construction and post construction for any areas covering 1 acre or larger; some towns, such as Sharon, are regulating below that 1 acre threshold. There were questions and comments from members. Dave MacDonald indicated that the Town would look to the State and Federal Government for funding; Fred replied that there would be very little funding coming from the State or Federal Government, but that Towns would need to find the funding to fulfill the requirements of the MS4 Permit. He mentioned that some cities and towns are moving toward creating Storm Water Utilities as a funding mechanism to produce stable funding for stormwater work. Right now, those funds come from the general fund, so residents now pay through property taxes. There are about 2500 storm water utilities nationwide; annual fees for residents vary. Fred has a colleague, Mr. Delaney, who'd be willing to come out to explain how it was accomplished in the town where he resides.

Matt Allison asked a question about illicit discharge. Mr. Civian gave examples such as oil or gas leaks that enter the storm drain would be illicit discharges, pumped water from flooded basements as well; stormwater is not.

Mr. Civian showed an EPA map of Lunenburg illustrating impaired water bodies, which have more pollutants than their TMDL (total maximum daily load) allow. Hickory Hills Lake has as its only pollutant, mercury from atmospheric deposition. The State is working with other state to reduce the

amount of pollutants coming from smoke stacks; this is not a problem Lunenburg can or is required to tackle. Lake Shirley is polluted for turbidity. A TMDL has to be developed to determine what kind of reductions must take place to get this water body back into state and federal standards for water quality. The DEP has a 305D list which shows the impaired waters of the state. Dave MacDonald asked how the state makes these determinations. Fred replied that the state takes water samples, together with scientific modeling, to determine the status of water bodies.

Mr. Civian offered to help us as much as possible; he'll come back out if we'd like him to make a presentation to a larger audience; he'd be willing to help if we run into contentious issues. He will forward the presentation tomorrow; he suggested that we look into the work of the 5 – 7 stormwater coalitions which have sprung up in the state to seek out additional resources. Additionally, we should feel free to send him all/any questions; if he doesn't know the answers, he can put us in touch with folks who do.

Dave MacDonald asked about educational videos that might be available. Fred suggested that we go to the EPA website and that there is a wealth of educational videos there.

Mr. Civian mentioned that MA DEP is holding a workshop on Tuesday, January 26, for communities to learn about grant opportunities.

Jim Auge observed that the work of the Stormwater Task Force will not end; there is now a perpetual need for Stormwater management to comply with the requirements of MS4. Fred suggested that many towns have different boards responsible for different pieces of meeting those requirements. He sees our job as insuring that our Town meets and exceeds the requirements of the 2003 MS4 permit and that the Town is ready to work to meet the requirements of the new MS4 permit.

Jack Rabbitt asked for clarification about the mercury impairment of Hickory Hills Lake that Mr. Civian had mentioned. Fred explained that mercury affects water bodies in our region largely as a result of acid rain traveling from the Midwest. Small amounts may be found in fish tissue. The good news is that this is the only impairment found in Hickory Hills Lake.

Matt Allison asked for clarification about the MS4 regions as per the map Fred had handed out. Fred articulated that 319 grants cannot be used in MS4 regions to fulfill requirements. For example, MS4 concerns areas of an acre or larger, if the Town has areas to address that are less than an acre, those would qualify.

At the conclusion of the discussion with Fred Civian, Ms. Luck suggested the board continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, and that the members break into subgroups to work in between monthly meetings. Jack Rabbitt felt the group should continue to meet twice monthly. Jim Auge asked what can we do before the new permit is unveiled? Task force members from various town boards agreed to bring to the next meeting what their board has now for stormwater related regulations, and what, if anything, their board has in process. Dave MacDonald is going to work with Jack Rodriquenz to identify equipment the Town currently has to tackle storm water issues, and what procedures the Town now has in place for handling the requirements of the 2003 MS4 permit.

Fred mentioned that the new MS4 draft has 700 control measures and runs 60 – 80 pages. However, as a practical matter, we could look at the first year requirements and get our plan in place to meet those,

as a first step. When discussing the new MS4 permit, Mr. Civian pointed out that Towns will need to follow the requirements laid out in the permit AND show results through improvements in water quality of impaired waters. Fred shared that DEP is developing a website with Public Outreach materials. If a Town downloads and shares materials from this website, that Town will be meeting the Public Outreach standard. If each home owner does a little to improve the management of stormwater on their own property, the cumulative effect will be worth a lot!

Mr. Civian shared that NOI's are due from MS4 towns 90 days after effective date of the permit; the Town's Stormwater Management Plans are due one year after the effective date. The impaired waters implementation timeline is 5 – 20 years. **In year one, Lunenburg will need to file the Notice of Intent, develop a Stormwater Management Plan, develop an IDDE plan.** With regard to the IDDE plan, other towns in Stormwater coalitions have done some work on this and are happy to share what they've learned. **Mr. Civian pointed out that Lunenburg must move from meeting and exceeding the requirements of the 2003 permit to meeting the very specific requirements of the new permit. For each permit condition, we'll need to identify whose responsible for the Town meeting that condition.** When the final permit is issued, MA DEP will come out to towns to educate and explain and help us get acclimated to the new permit.

Costs estimates predict towns will spend about 20% more on Stormwater management, excluding contingencies and TMDL implementation. Dave MacDonald asked about funding available in Town; Phyllis reported that the Town Manager has set aside \$40,000 which has not been expended, and it is not clear what would be set aside for additional funding in the FY 17 budget.

Ms. Luck passed out a proposal submitted by Ed Himlan of the Mass Watershed Coalition and mentioned that Jack Rodriquenz had suggested that we have Ed come out to talk to us about how we might begin. Jack Rabbitt thought we should spend more time looking at the problem within the group and determine what we think we should do before speaking with any consultants.

In closing, Mr. Civian offered to come back out to Lunenburg to speak with us again and/or to speak to Lake Associations.

The next meeting of the Stormwater Task Force will be on Wednesday, January 27, at 7 pm, at the Ritter Building.

**Motion: J. Auge**  
**To adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: J. Rabbitt**  
**Vote: All in Favor**